

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the notice of allowance mailed December 27, 2004. However, pursuant to this notice, an unnecessary limitation of claim 6 was observed. Specifically, as allowed, claim 6 implicitly required an even number of spirals. As can be seen from inspection of, for example, Figure 4, embodiments of the invention may be constructed with an odd number of spirals. For example, spiral 410 in Figure 4 could have been implemented as the last spiral. To connect port 1 to end 110b, a via would then be required. Thus, although an even number of layers removes the requirement of using such a via to couple to port 1, it is within the scope of the invention to use an odd number of layers/spirals. No new issues are raised by such an amendment. Thus, entry of such an amendment is proper despite the notice of allowance. New claims 17 and 18 limit claim 6 to implicitly require an even and odd number of spirals, respectively. No new issues are raised by these newly-added claims.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, pending Claims 6-11, 17, and 18 are in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is hereby solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (949) 752-7040 is welcomed and encouraged.

Certification of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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March 22, 2005
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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